



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1996

No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy Lord God, we admit that we often try to live our lives within the narrow, limited dimensions of our own wisdom and strength. As a result, we order our lives around our own abilities and skills and miss the adventure of life You have prepared for us. We confess to You all the things we do not attempt; the courageous deeds we contemplate but are afraid we cannot do, the gracious thoughts we do not express; the forgiveness we feel, but do not communicate. Forgive us, Lord, for settling for a life which is a mere shadow of what You have prepared for us, forgetting that You are able to do in and through us what we could never do by ourselves.

Plant in us the vivid picture of what You are able to do with lives like ours, and give us the gift of new excitement about living life by Your triumphant power in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Idaho is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately turn to the consideration of S. 1936, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The bill will be considered under a previous unanimous-consent agreement that limits the bill to eight first-degree amendments with 1 hour of debate equally divided on each. Following disposition of that bill, the Senate will resume consideration of the transportation appropriations bill which will also be consid-

ered under an agreement limiting first-degree amendments to that bill. Following disposition of those bills, the Senate may also be asked to turn to consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill. Therefore, Senators can expect a full legislative day with roll-call votes expected throughout the day and into the evening in order to complete action on the bills just mentioned or any other items cleared for action.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Chair lays before the Senate S. 1936, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1936) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5055

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5055 which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] proposes an amendment numbered 5055.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this amendment will solve a pressing

environmental problem, a major environmental problem in our Nation, a problem that is looming as a liability to the taxpayers, and this will end an era of irresponsible delay.

This major environmental issue is simple to understand. That is, do we want 80 nuclear waste dumps in 41 States serving 110 commercial reactors and defense sites across the country—near our neighbors, our schools and populated cities? Or do we want just one in the remote, unpopulated Nevada desert where we tested and exploded nuclear weapons for decades?

Mr. President, I am going to yield some time on the amendment to the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the Senate President pro tempore, Senator THURMOND, without losing my right to the floor.

Mr. THURMOND. I thank the able Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of S. 1936, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1996. In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which directed the Department of Energy to develop a permanent repository for highly radioactive waste from nuclear powerplants and defense facilities. This act was amended in 1987 to limit DOE's repository development activities to a single site at Yucca Mountain, NV. Since 1983, electric consumers have been taxed almost \$12 billion to finance the development of a permanent storage site. Despite DOE's obligation to take title to spent nuclear fuel in 1998, a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain will not be ready to accept this waste until the year 2010, at the earliest.

Mr. President, a July 16, 1996, Washington Post editorial states that the nuclear waste storage situation is not

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9209